

We claim:

1. A dolly device for loading and unloading a container, comprising:
 - a. a base having a lower portion supported by a plurality of roller devices;
 - b. a support surface operably mounted relative to the base and having a plurality of friction reducing members;
 - 5 c. a control frame mounted above the base and the support surface for pivoting between a plurality of operational positions for selectively limiting the movement of a container supported on the support surface; and
 - d. a locking mechanism having at least one locking position for selectively holding the control frame in one of a plurality of stop positions.
2. A dolly device according to claim 1, wherein the control frame is mounted by support members.
3. A dolly device according to claim 2, wherein the support members extend between the base and the control frame providing support for pivotal movement of the control frame relative to the base.
4. A dolly device according to claim 1, wherein the support surface is movably supported relative to the base.
5. A dolly device according to claim 4, wherein the support surface is mounted relative to the base such that the support surface can be adjusted along a substantially horizontal axis relative to the base.
6. A dolly device according to claim 4, wherein the support surface is mounted relative to the base such that the support surface can be adjusted along both the substantially vertical and substantially horizontal axes relative to the base.
7. A dolly device according to claim 4, further comprising an adjustable assembly configured to selectively locate the support surface at one of a plurality of heights relative to the base.
8. A dolly device according to claim 1, wherein the friction reducing members comprise rotatable members.

9. A dolly device according to claim 8, wherein the rotatable members comprise cylindrical rollers.
10. A dolly device according to claim 1, wherein the control frame comprises at least one leverage handle.
11. A dolly device according to claim 10, wherein the control frame comprises at least one unloading extension configured with the leverage handle to initiate removal of the container from the dolly device.
12. A dolly device according to claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism comprises at least three locking positions, each corresponding to an operational position of the control frame.
13. A method for handling a container, comprising:
- a. providing a dolly device having a base, a support surface operably mounted relative to the base, a control frame mounted above the base and the support surface that pivots between a plurality of operational positions for limiting movement of a container, and a locking mechanisms for locking the control frame in one of a plurality of stop positions;
 - b. placing the dolly device adjacent a loading station for the container;
 - c. pivoting the control frame having at least one leverage handle, wherein the leverage handle is downwardly pivoted permitting the container to be loaded;
 - 10 d. pushing the container from the loading station onto the support surface, wherein support surface comprises a plurality of friction reducing members to effectively load the container onto the dolly device;
 - e. pivoting the leverage handle of the control frame upwardly permitting the control frame to at least partially encompass the container;
 - 15 f. moving the dolly device and container to an unloading station; and
 - g. pivoting the control frame against the container to initiate removal of the container from the dolly device.
14. A method for handling a container according to claim 13, further comprising the step of moving the support surface relative to the base to align with the loading/unloading station.
- 20

15. A method for handling a container according to claim 13, further comprising the step of adjusting the height of the support surface to correspond with the loading/unloading station.
16. A dolly device for loading and unloading a container, comprising:
- a. a base having a lower portion supported by a plurality of roller devices;
 - b. a support surface operably mounted relative to the base and having a plurality of friction reducing members;
 - 5 c. a control frame mounted above the base and the support surface for pivoting between a plurality of operational positions for selectively limiting the movement of a container supported on the support surface; and
 - d. a multi-positional gate lock attached to the control frame and defining a plurality of unloading and loading positions for the control frame.
 - 10 e. support members extending between the base and the control frame providing support for pivotal movement of the control frame relative to the base.
17. A dolly device according to claim 16, further comprising an adjustable assembly configured to selectively locate the support surface at one of a plurality of heights relative to the base.
18. A dolly device according to claim 16, wherein the support surface is mounted relative to the base such that it can be adjusted along both the substantially vertical and substantially horizontal axes relative to the support surface.
19. A dolly device according to claim 16, wherein the control frame comprises at least one leverage handle.
20. A dolly device according to claim 19, wherein the control frame comprises at least one unloading extension configured with the leverage handle to initiate removal of the container from the dolly device.